

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

UNCLAS STATE 121420

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: OCLR, TBIO, RP

SUBJECT: R/V ALPHA HELIX RESEARCH VOYAGE III AND IV

REF: STATE 094997

1. R/V ALPHA HELIX PLANS TO CONDUCT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN PHILIPPINE TERRITORIAL WATERS DURING PERIODS 21 AUGUST TO 26 SEPTEMBER 1975 AND 1 OCTOBER TO 6 NOVEMBER 1975. THESE PERIODS WERE REFERRED TO AS PERIODS III AND IV, RESPECTIVELY, IN REFTEL.

2. PHASE III WILL BE CENTERED IN VISAYAN SEA JUST NORTH OF CEBU ISLAND NEAR GATO ISLET, AND NEARBY PROTECTED ANCHORAGES WILL BE UTILIZED (PROBABLY AT BANTAYAN, GUINTACAN OR CEBU ISLANDS). VESSEL AND/OR VESSEL'S SMALL BOATS PLAN OCCASIONALLY TO ENTER COASTAL MANGROVE SWAMPSTO CAPTURE SPECIMENS OF SALT WATER SNAKES. AT LEAST ONE TRIP TO NORTH COAST OF BOHOL WILL BE MADE, PASSING BETWEEN CEBU AND LEYTE ISLANDS. AIRGRAM IS BEING FORWARDED CONTAININGTHE SHIP'S UNCLASSIFIED

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PLANNED TRACK.

3. SHIP WILL BE UNDER COMMAND OF CAPTAIN WAYNE E. BRISTOL AND WILL HAVE TOTAL COMPLEMENT OF 24 INCLUDING SCIENTIFIC

PARTY OF 12. LIST OF SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL IS INCLUDED IN

ABOVE AIRGRAM. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT SCIENTIFIC PARTY INCLUDES SCIENTISTS FROM AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN.

4. PURPOSE OF CRUISE IS TO EXAMINE (1) PHYSIOLOGY OF NUTRITION IN CORALS AND SPONGES; (2) ECOLOGY AND MORPHOLOGY OF CORAL REEFS; (3) DIVING PHYSIOLOGY AND WATER BALANCE OF SEA SNAKES; AND (4) VENOM TOXICOLOGY OF CORAL REEF SNAKES AND FISH.

5. MAJOR QUESTION IN MARINE BIOLOGY IS EXTENT TO WHICH CORALS DEPEND ON ENERGY PRODUCTION BY SYMBIOTIC ALGAE IN THEIR TISSUES OR CALCIUM CARBONATE MATRIX. THIS STUDY WILL FOCUS ON (1) NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF CORALS WHICH THRIVE PARADOXICALLY IN NUTRIENT-POOR TROPICAL SEAS; (2) LITTLE KNOWN REEF SPONGES WHICH CONTAIN IN THEIR TISSUES SYMBIOTIC ALGAE OF TYPE DIFFERENT FROM THAT FOUND IN CORALS; (3) GEOMORPHOLOGY OF CORAL REEFS; (4) PHYSIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY OF SEA SNAKES; AND (5) TOXICITY OF SEA SNAKE AND FISH VENOM.

6. PHASE IV WILL BE CONCENTRATED PRIMARILY IN AREA SOUTH OF NEGROS AND CEBU AND IN TANON STRAIT. MAJOR PURPOSE OF RESEARCH IS INTENSIVE STUDY OF PHYSIOLOGY, BEHAVIOR, AND REPRODUCTION OF CEPHALOPOD "NAUTILUS POMPILIUS", KNOWN AS "PEARLY NAUTILUS." THIS SPECIES IS ONLY SURVIVING REPRESENTATIVE OF MANY EARLY CEPHALOPODS KNOWN ONLY IN FOSSIL FORM. THUS, STUDY OF THIS SPECIES SHOULD PROVIDE VALUABLE INFORMATION AS TO LIFE CYCLES AND DEVELOPMENT OF EARLIER SPECIES.

7. SAMPLES OF NAUTILUS WILL BE COLLECTED USING DEEP FISH TRAPS AND WILL BE MAINTAINED ALIVE IN AQUARIA ABOARD SHIP. OBSERVATIONS AND MEASUREMENTS WILL BE MADE OF RESPIRATORY UPTAKE, BLOOD PRESSURES AND CARDIAC PARAMETERS, VISUAL NEUROPHYSIOLOGY, EXCRETORY PHYSIOLOGY, UNCLASSIFIED

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BEHAVIOR (USING PHOTOGRAPHIC AND VIDEO TECHNIQUES) AND REPRODUCTION.

8. TECHNIQUES USED FOR ABOVE STUDIES REQUIRE STABLE PLATFORM AND THEREFORE PROTECTED ANCHORAGE FOR VESSEL. THUS, VESSEL WOULD LIKE TO ANCHOR AT VARIOUS TIMES DURING PERIOD OF STUDY IN SUCH PORTS AS BAYAWAN, SIATON, DUMAGUETT BAYS, BINDOY AND CEBU CITY.

9. LIST OF SCIENTIFIC PARTY AND TRACK CHART ARE BEING TRANSMITTED SEPARATELY BY AIRGRAM. SCIENTIFIC PARTY INCLUDES SCIENTISTS FROM CANADA AND SWEDEN. SCIENTISTS WILL, OF COURSE, BE HAPPY TO SHARE INFORMATION AND SPECI-

MENS WITH GOP SCIENTISTS AND AGENCIES.

10. AS INDICATED EARLIER, SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR AT LEAST ONE PHILIPPINE SCIENTIST IN VOYAGE III AND IN VOYAGE IV. SCIENTISTS INVOLVED IN VOYAGE III HAVE CONTACTED MR. INNOCENCIO A. RONGUILLO OF GOP DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN THIS RESPECT. DEPT. ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT DR. FRANCISCO NEMENZO OF UNIVERSITY OF PHILIPPINES, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY, HAS BEEN INVITED TO FILL ONE SPACE FOR VOYAGE III. IF OTHER PHILIPPINE SCIENTISTS ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO INFORM DEPARTMENT OF THEIR NAMES AND MAILING ADDRESSES. DEPARTMENT WILL IN TURN INFORM SCRIPPS WHICH WILL DETERMINE WHETHER SPACE CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE AND, IF SO, WILL CONTACT THESE SCIENTISTS DIRECTLY. KISSINGER

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